

*Sincerest Thanks to All!!!*

**VOLUME 11 NUMBER 5**  
*November/December 2023*

# CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

Церковь Всѣхъ Святыхъ въ Землѣ Россійской Просіавшихъ

## MESSAGE FROM ARCHPRIEST STEFAN, RECTOR

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!**

As the 50th Anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood becomes a precious memory, Matushka Tatiana and I stand humbled and deeply thankful for the honors, gifts, and love bestowed on both of us. We thank God for His mercy, love and benevolent providence for our lives, our children, our grandchildren, and all our extended relatives.

We thank our ruling bishops: His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas of New York and Eastern America, Chief Hierarchy of the Russian Church Abroad, for coming and serving at our Parish in Burlingame. We bow deeply to His Eminence, Archbishop Kyrill of San Francisco and Western America, for petitioning the Synod of Bishops to have a Gramota presented to us with the special rite to celebrate Liturgy with open Altar Royal Gates. And, we send out love

and deep gratitude to His Grace Bishop Theodosy and His Grace Bishop James for their blessings, prayers, and good wishes.

We thank the Parish Council Members for their generous gift, as well as their dedication and love for our parish. The Parish Sisterhood-Ladies Auxiliary are always generous with their love, their labors and generosity. We also thank our



*Metropolitan Nicholas and Archbishop Kyrill, along with many clergy, celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Archpriest Stefan's Ordination to the Priesthood.*

Church Choir and the Slavyanka Choir, both under the direction of Irina Shachneva. The Church Choir sang beautifully at the Divine Liturgy, then joined members of the Slavyanka Choir for a medley of folk songs sung during the Banquet Concert. They then presented to Matushka and me with the gift of relaxation at Lake Tahoe.

Inviting and hosting over 300 people took hours of work in planning and execution. We deeply thank the committee who worked diligently for

*continued...*

weeks on guest lists, decorations, and public relations for the After Liturgy Banquet.

We give special thanks to our Deacon Father Alexei Baranoff who managed everything necessary to have the church services and altar preparations to be in excellent order. We also thank our Altar servers and guest Sub-deacons who participated in these services.

We thank the visiting clergy who concelebrated at Church and those who shared with us at the Banquet. Special thanks go to the Board of Directors of Brookside Convalescent Hospital and the Board of Directors of Saint John Kronstadt Care Center for their generous gifts and moral support.

Last but not least, we thank all our Parish Members in good standing, our Stewards who have supported our Stewardship Program year after year, our many Starosta Helpers, our teams of hard working Volunteers and finally, all those who attend services at our All Saints of Russia Burlingame Church.

Of course, we can never forget our previous parishes – Holy Trinity Parish in Vineland, New Jersey, and Holy Resurrection Church on Sixth Avenue in San Francisco. We remember with much love all the people who kindly shared our path during these swiftly-passing years.

All of you will always be in our hearts,  
Stefan and Matushka Tatiana  
Pavlenko ■

Published with the blessing of His Eminence Kyrill, Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America, Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.

## ATTENDING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

Protoierei Stefan Pavlenko



In the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains in Upstate New York between Albany and Syracuse, a short distance from historic Cooperstown, is one of the most significant institutions of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. It is the Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, New York, my alma mater. After graduating from Vineland Senior High School in New Jersey, I studied at the seminary from 1966 until 1971, graduating with a Bachelor of Theology Degree.

This year HTOS, located at the Holy Trinity Orthodox Monastery, celebrated its 75th anniversary with bishops, clergy, monastics, alumni, supporters and guests gathering from near and far to participate. Many events were planned, including church services, lectures, meals, and tours of the monastery and seminary grounds. Also part of the celebration were a cursory museum presentation by the dedicated and talented curator Michael P. Perekrestov and a spiritually uplifting Music Concert expertly conducted by Deacon Nicholas Kotar. Both are San Francisco and Bay Area natives.

Our Western American Diocese, with the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Kyrill of San Francisco and Western America, made a significant donation to the seminary. Presenting the donation at the closing banquet were Archpriest Peter Perekrestov, Kluchar (Dean) of the Holy Virgin Cathedral and Secretary of the Western American Diocesan Council, Archpriest Paul Volmensky, a Diocesan Council Member and Rector of the Holy Ascension Church in Sacramento, California, and me, Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko, Rector of Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame, California

*continued...*



*Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko, seated on the far left, celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, New York.*

and Diocesan Chancellor. Joining us in the presentation were two seminary students from California.

His Eminence Vladyka Kyrill blessed me to read his deeply moving and spiritually sobering congratulatory message to those gathered. By the request of His Grace Bishop Luke, Rector of the Seminary, the message was translated into English and read by Archpriest Peter Perekrestov to the attendees at the banquet.

Great thanks go to the Board of Directors of Saint John of Kronstadt Care Center in Castro Valley, California for their generous gifts to the seminary which were presented by me at the banquet. I encourage all Orthodox Christians to support Holy Trinity Seminary because for 75 years, it has prepared and presented Bishops, Pastors and various church workers, not only to the Russian Church Abroad but to Orthodox Churches throughout the world. ■

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# STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Dimitry Bobroff

**O**ur Stewardship Program has been ongoing now for 12 years!!!

In 2011, while Father Stefan and I were attending the Western America Diocesan Assembly in San Francisco, we learned from Archpriest Alexander Krassovsky that his Saints Peter and Paul Church in Santa Rosa had started a Stewardship Program. We looked at one another and wondered if a similar program would work at our Church. At that time, our parish financial resources were extremely scarce and we were facing great expenses to repair our main cupola which leaked rainwater. During the meeting, I jotted down lots of notes.

However, it took close to a year of discussions and planning before our Parish Council approved the Program. One worry was that the financial plan would cannibalize donations which people made during the year. (It did not.) So in April 2012, we finally launched the Stewardship Program and hoped for the best.

Thanks to our Stewards, we have collected \$750,000 over the twelve years which has allowed us to fund major repairs, proceed with long-awaited beautification projects, and start a myriad of smaller projects.

## **Some major repair projects that were completed:**

- *Repaired and waterproofed the main cupola.*
- *Refinished the floors and replaced the rugs.*
- *Repaired, painted, and waterproofed the four blue cupolas.*
- *Installed a new church roof.*
- *Replaced exhaust fans on roof.*

## **Some building improvement and beautification projects:**

- *Improved security with installation of steel doors.*
- *Built ADA ramp for disabled church attendees.*
- *Installed large TV, Livestreaming, new website, and*

*video surveillance cameras.*

- *Designed and installed stained glass windows.*
- *Procured and installed new bells.*
- *Built a new Panomarka and remodeled the altar.*
- *Gilded main cupola, as well as painted the blue cupolas and gilded their stars.*
- *Installed front door steel framing and gilded the doors.*
- *Installed ambo stair railing.*
- *Gilded the iconostasis and two front icon kiots in the Nave.*
- *Replaced side fence with steel spear top fencing to match the front fence.*

## **Current and upcoming projects:**

- *Gild the two rear icon kiots in the Nave.*
- *Replace rear fence with steel spear top fencing to match the rest of the fencing.*
- *Repair rotten beams on roof.*
- *Repair cracks and paint the outside of the church.*
- *Etc., etc., and etc.*

And, in time for Father Stefan's 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood, a wooden carved covering for our Altar Table was acquired. Metropolitan Nicholas blessed the covering during the Saturday evening Vigil. The Altar Table did not have to be reconsecrated since the Altar Table was not dismantled or even moved.

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A STEWARD?**

God has given us life, our Orthodox Faith, and our talents. We manifest our Orthodox Faith by participating in Church life, not just being passive Church-goers. We must be active not only in our spiritual life, but also by assuming responsibility for the care of the Church, both materially and with our skills and individual talents. Our Church is our spiritual community. We are not just individuals, but an Orthodox community with tremendous capacity for synergistic teamwork.

*continued...*



Material support comes in the form of financial pledges. With money raised through pledges, we can meet necessary parish needs and repairs, and undertake projects to improve and beautify the Church.

Our talent comes in the form of volunteer work, such as singing in the choir, joining the Sisterhood, teaching in the Parish Russian School, cleaning the church, and performing maintenance duties.

All Stewards may apply to be registered parish members of the Church of All Russian Saints with the right to vote at the Annual General Parish Meeting and to seek elective office in the administration of the parish (via the Parish Council), as long as all requirements for parish membership are properly adhered to, as

stipulated in the PARISH BY-LAWS (PART 3: Parishioners and Parish Members). See <https://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/files/COARS-Bgame---Parish-By-Laws.pdf>

While not everyone can qualify to be a Parish member, anyone can become a Steward of our parish. Please consider becoming a Steward by printing the Pledge Form at <https://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/files/Church-Stewardship-2023-Pledge-Form.pdf>

Stewardship pledging is an annual program extending from January 1 through December 31. I will be mailing out letters in January, providing a tax receipt for charitable deductions, and asking all current Stewards to renew their pledges for 2024. During the year, a continuous appeal will be made to enlist new Stewards. ■

# LARISSA KRASSOVSKY: MATRIARCH OF THE FAMILY

Ludmilla Bobroff



*As a child, Larissa was an acolyte at the Cathedral in Shanghai where Vladyka Ioann served.*

both from Tomsk. Larissa's father was very artistic and created backdrops and décor for theaters in Shanghai. The marriage did not last long, however, and the parents divorced. The little girl was then raised by her grandparents.

Larissa attended the League of Russian Women's Girls' School and attended church at the Cathedral of the Icon of the Mother of God, Surety of Sinners, where Vladyka Ioann (Maximovich) served. Larissa was an acolyte to Vladyka in the church school and got to know him very well. When the Communists overwhelmed the city, Vladyka gathered his flock of 6000 Russians and, with the permission of the Philippine government, facilitated their transport to the newly established refugee camp on the island of Tubabao.

Although the immigrants lived in tents, they were able to establish a Cathedral church in a barrack and four tent churches in different sections of the island in order to accommodate all the Orthodox faithful. As an adult, now, at age 19, Larissa caught the eye of 36-year-old Vadim Vladimirovich Krassovsky who, within a short time, proposed marriage. The couple was wed in the "Cathedral" church on the island, but the newlyweds couldn't stay for the reception because Vadim had just landed a job with Matson Shipping Lines and was needed immediately in Bangkok, Thailand.

When their first son, Vladimir, was born, they wrote to Vladyka Ioann, asking him how to baptize their newborn since no Orthodox priest was available in Bangkok. Vladyka Ioann sent back a detailed letter on how it should be done, even writing the liturgical texts in a different color ink. Baby Vladimir was baptized by his father on

The Krassovsky family has been involved in the founding, organizing and supporting Russian organizations since the 1950's. Not only did they become members of the first house church on Carmelita Avenue in Burlingame, but they were also involved in the building of the Church of All Russian Saints and organizing the Russian Scouts Program in Burlingame.

Matriarch of the family is 95-year-old Larissa Krassovsky. On October 28, 2023, her sons and their families gathered at her house in Burlingame for lunch, bringing one of her favorite foods – Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Larissa was born on October 28, 1928, to Konstantine Pokrovsky and Rufina nee Kitnovsky,

*continued...*



*Larissa and Vadim bought a home in Burlingame in 1967 and moved in with their four sons.*

Pascha in 1951. Their second son, Eugene, was born 2 years later. Soon after that, Vadim was transferred to Hong Kong, where Alexander was born. Vladimir was chrismated and Eugene and Alexander were baptized by Father Elias Wen who later served in the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco, California where he reposed at the age of 110.

The Krassovsky family finally immigrated to the United States in 1956 with three boys in tow. The family lived in San Francisco, Long Beach, New Orleans, and Burlingame. They bought their first house in Belmont, where they lived for 10 years. In 1959, Michael was born in San Mateo, California. In 1967 they moved to Burlingame where Larissa resides today. A homecare provider named Nina Mislevaya takes care of her needs.

As the boys were growing up, the parents were loving but strict with them. The brothers were required to say evening prayers together and each one was assigned to do specific chores around the

house two days a week. They attended Church services and served as altar boys. All four graduated from Burlingame High School and our Parish Russian School. Aside from being involved in the Scouts Organization (NORS), the three younger boys competed in high school sports.

During these years, the family kept in close contact with Vladyka Ioann whether he was serving in Europe or in San Francisco. When little Alexander contracted mononucleosis, the pediatrician told him not to go to school for 6 months. Vadim contacted Vladyka Ioann, who was in New York at the time, and asked for his prayers. Three days later, little Alexander was back in school.

Similarly, many years later, Vladimir's future wife, young Natalia, had a serious asthma attack at a friend's house. The parents were ready to take her to the hospital. Vladyka Ioann happened to be there at that time. He patted her on the head, and told her not to worry. A short time later, the attack subsided.

*continued...*



*Vadim started the Russian Scouts program in Burlingame (NORS) and all four sons participated.*



*Larissa attended the baptism of Baby Dionina, along with the rest of the family.*

In 1988, Vadim, at the age of 74, contracted colon cancer which metastasized into the liver. Although an operation was performed, serious heart problems were discovered. After being released from the hospital, due to his weakness, Vadim fell down and fractured his neck. He passed away on November 1, 1988. The family looked upon his repose as a blessing for him not to undergo great pain.

Larissa always felt the need to serve the Russian Community and continued to do so after Vadim's death. She was involved in the Russian Women's League, the Russian Scouts, the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco, Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Santa Rosa, and of course, our Church. Her decades of extensive volunteer work so impressed the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation that they awarded her the 2016 Immigrant Heritage Award in the category of Community Leader. She also received Diocesan and Synodal commendation certificates ("gramotas").

As for the Krassovsky sons today, Vladimir is an iconographer and Choir Director of the Holy Virgin Cathedral Choir in San Francisco. Eugene, now Monk Efrem, resides in Greece. Archpriest Alexander is Rector of Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Santa Rosa. And Michael, now Archimandrite Roman, is Head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission of the Russian Church Abroad in Jerusalem.

In addition, Larissa has been blessed not only with "many years" but she has lived long enough to behold her "children's children, like a newly-planted olive orchard, around the table". The seven grandchildren are Eugene, Svetlana, Roman, and Larissa from son, Vladimir and his wife, Natalie, while Father Alexander and his wife, Anna, are the parents of Alexandra, Alexei and Katherine. But that's not all. The next generation have made their appearance and have been joyously welcomed by the family. They are great-grandchildren Kiprian, Pavel and Dionina. ■

# RUSSIAN SCHOOL REPORT

Margarita Herzen

With God's help and Father Stefan's blessing, the 2023-2024 Parish Russian School year began with a heartfelt moleben on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. After the service, parents, teachers and students went downstairs into the Church Hall to become reacquainted with one another over a cup of tea and a slice of pizza - the children's favorite treat. A week later, both in-person and online classes began.

Twenty-two students have enrolled in the program this year. Several have not returned while four new students have signed up. Most children attend in-person classes in the Burlingame Church Hall on Tuesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. However, six students live too far away to go to Russian School on a weekday so they attend classes online.

Teachers who are teaching again are Irina Nicholaevna Bogoslovsky, Alexandra Vitalievna Sabelnik-Whooley, Andrei Vladimirovich Fedorov, and Margarita Grigorievna Herzen. Our Reader Dima Tchertkoff, teacher of Zakon Bozhi (The Law of God) and Anna Valyerevna Fedorova had to resign because of their new situation at work and increased workload. Anna Valyerevna turned over her job to Lidia Vladimirovna Bitsadze, whose appointment was blessed by Father Stefan. Anna Valyerevna has agreed to be a substitute teacher.

Two former teachers have returned to the Parish Russian School. Anna Pavlovna Derugina and Maria Mironovna Sky are introducing and expanding the music and art program. Anna Pavlovna is currently leading and motivating students to sing prayers and folk songs while Maria Mironovna, daughter of the late Anastasia Nicholaevna Sky, is focusing on arts and crafts pertinent to upcoming Orthodox holidays and cultural themes.



*Teachers and students of the Parish Russian School pose in front of the Church's golden front doors on their first day of classes.*

Preparations have already begun for Nativity events. On December 3, students will be part of a school-wide Confession and Holy Communion, followed by the Sisterhood's "Gingerbread Faire" in the Church Hall. The Feast Day of the Nativity is January 7. Then comes Father Stefan's Namesday celebration on January 9.

Our Annual Yolka will be held on January 13, 2024. Students are already reading and learning about the moral values of Pyotr Ershov's story "The Humpbacked Horse" (Конёк горбунок). It will be the featured story-theme at the Yolka. In the coming weeks, students will be memorizing selected stanzas and songs from the story and begin to rehearse short skits for the Yolka program.

Details on Yolka, which is open to the public, will be available on flyers handed out in Church in December. ■

# REGISTRATION OPENS FOR SAINT HERMAN'S YOUTH CONFERENCE



Announcing the XVII (17th) Annual Saint Herman's West Youth Conference which will be held at All Saints Russian Orthodox Church in Las Vegas, Nevada from December 26 through 29, 2023. Participants must be between ages 15 through 22.

Arrival is Tuesday, December 26 with a departure on Friday, December 29. The Conference will include an edifying lecture, discussions with clergy, liturgical workshops, a Hierarchal Liturgy, and social interaction in the beautiful outdoors of Las Vegas. Forget the reputation and casinos — we'll be far away from all of that! Come out for a break from winter weather and an injection of new life into your Orthodox life! Registration for parishioners of the ROCOR Western American Diocese is now open. To see the full program and to register, go to <https://wadyouthwordpress.com/>

Registration fees are \$250 for the first member of each family, and \$225 for each additional member. After your registration is processed, you will receive an invoice to pay online.

**If you are the son or daughter of parishioners or Stewards of the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame, you will be reimbursed for half of the registration fee. Contact our Treasurer, Father Deacon Alexei Baranoff, with your paid invoice to receive the reimbursement.**

Recruiting counselors! Adults ages 23 through 28 are welcome to apply to be counselors for the St. Herman's conference. Applications are made by email to [wadyouth3@gmail.com](mailto:wadyouth3@gmail.com) Counselors attend at a discounted rate and serve to keep various parts of the conference flowing smoothly. Counselors should have a deep interest in the youth of our church, and be ready to help encourage participant interaction. Counselors will cook the final meal and do daily room checks. To apply, send an email with a paragraph describing your interest, and contact information for one or two references, one of which should be your parish priest/confessor. ■



# CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION



*Archpriest Stefan receives a cross from Metropolitan Nicholas. He was also gifted an icon of Saint Panteleimon from Archbishop Kyrill.*



*Matushka Tatiana Pawlenko is honored for 50 years of carrying out her duties at our Church and in the Cathedral.*



*Above: Matushka Tatiana and Archpriest Stefan are photographed with all the Priests, Bishops and Altar Servers who officiated at the Divine Liturgy on this joyous occasion.*



*Right: Relatives of the Pawlenko family flew from the East Coast to honor the much-loved couple.*

# A FESTIVE BANQUET



*After Liturgy, many clergy joined Archpriest Stefan and Matushka Tatiana at Domenico Winery for a festive banquet.*



*Metropolitan Nicholas raised a toast to Archpriest Stefan and all his achievements.*



*Invited guests were all assigned seats. This long table was full of Church of All Russian Saints parishioners.*



*Daughters Olia Schafirnek, Xenia Maximova, and son Alyosha Pawlenko warmly congratulated their father after a touching speech.*



*Matushka Natalie Kotar from Seattle gathered all the Matushkas at the banquet and presented Matushka Tatiana with a large bouquet of flowers from all of them.*



# SPECIAL EVENTS



*Natalie Sabelnik, president of the Congress of Russian Americans, presents proclamations of gratitude to Boris Pariz, on the left, and Dimity Bobroff for major projects they completed for the organization.*



*After substituting for Father Stefan who was traveling, Father Georgiy Kaplanov of the Holy Virgin Cathedral, gave an excellent lecture on the Basics of Christian Morality as written by St. Theophan the Recluse.*



*Above: With an excellent response from parishioners, members of the Sisterhood conducted a very successful Rummage Sale in August. Items not sold were sent to another Orthodox Church in San Francisco for their rummage sale.*



*Left: Parishioners brought many baskets of fruit to be blessed on the Feast Day of Transfiguration.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS NOVEMBER + DECEMBER

## NOVEMBER 19

THANKSGIVING LUNCH

## DECEMBER 3

CHILDREN'S GINGERBREAD FAIRE

TO ORDER A PRE-BUILT GINGERBREAD HOUSE FOR YOUR CHILD TO DECORATE, PLEASE EMAIL [BURLINGAMESISTERHOOD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BURLINGAMESISTERHOOD@GMAIL.COM)

## DECEMBER 3

SISTERHOOD FISH CUTLET LUNCH

## PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS

## NOVEMBER 30

IF YOU CAN HELP, COME TO THE CHURCH HALL ANYTIME BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 4 P.M. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL LUBA GAUSCHIEDT AT 659-591-1605.

## CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS

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<http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

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We welcome your suggestions on the type of articles you would like to see in the Parish Newsletter. Send your ideas to Ludmilla Bobroff at [Ludmillaa@aol.com](mailto:Ludmillaa@aol.com) or telephone (408) 257-6918. Please write Parish Newsletter in the Subject Line. Deadline is one month prior to publication.

**Next Newsletter - January 2024**

## BAPTIZED

**August 2023**

None

**September 2023**

None

## MARRIED

**August 2023**

None

**September 2023**

None

## REPOSED IN THE LORD

**August 2023**

Sean McKinnon

**September 2023**

Leonids Bitners

Ludmilla Horne

Vladimir Ivanov

Timothy Moorom

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Deadline for submitting cards and sending checks

(made out to Church of All Russian Saints) is

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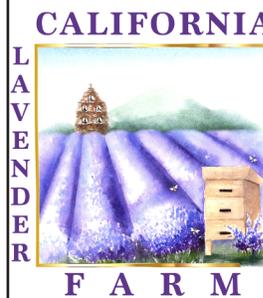
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## LIVESTREAM SERVICES

For those who are homebound, hospitalized or unable to attend Church Services at the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame, we have enabled live video streaming via the Internet. Live, as well as previously recorded Church Services are available at

YouTube channel:

<http://bit.ly/burlingamechannel>

Alternatively, the link to the Church Services is also available on the church website at:

<http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>



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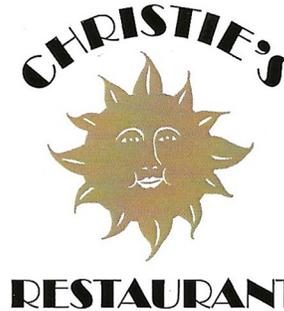
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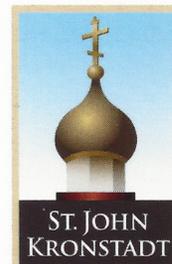


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